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MEDICAL BENEFITS PROGRAM

There appears to exist a serious failure to publicize the Agency medical benefits program -- particularly the "line of duty" benefits permitted under Section 5 a (5) (c) of Public Law 110.

I am advised by the Chief, Medical Staff, and the Chief of the Claims Division that a medical benefits program under Public Law 110 was authorized and initiated 1 May 1953. I am also advised that the then DCI directed that the program be as broad as possible under CIA's legislative authority and that a "line of duty" concept be adopted which contemplates that an employee, PCS in a foreign country, be considered on duty 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

My discussions with the Chief, Medical Staff, so impressed me with the latitude of the program that I discussed it within the EE Division. To my surprise, there appeared to be no knowledge that the 5 a (5) (c) medical benefits program had been implemented.

Inquiry was then made as to where details of the program were contained. We were advised that they were in a draft regulation [REDACTED] which was last coordinated within the DD/P in September 1955. Inquiry as to whether any interim advice had been given to the Area Divisions for informal release to field stations led to an essentially negative answer. We were merely informed that assistance had been given to some Agency components in drafting informational dispatches to the field. Specifically, FE Division and the Office of Communications were cited as components which had fully briefed their field installations on the subject. We were further assured that EE field stations were aware of the program since lectures had been given at the Operational Support Course and because claims were currently being processed.

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To clarify the situation, [REDACTED] and I reviewed the claim register for all EE Division cases for several months. A review of the individual cases, however, seems to disclose that the field is not generally aware of the program and that most if not all of the claims paid under Public Law 110 had in fact been processed to Headquarters in the belief that they were BEC cases or because the individual carried Agency hospitalization insurance.

In summary, the situation appears to be this:

- a) For three years the Agency has had a line of duty medical benefit program but has made no official announcement thereof.
- b) Some Agency components on their own initiative have sent information to their field offices after they became unofficially aware of the program. The result is circumstantial discrimination among Agency employees overseas.

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c) A vast number of legitimate claims have undoubtedly accrued.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that an adequate [REDACTED] Headquarters instruction be issued immediately. If it is not possible to issue [REDACTED] due to unresolved procedural or editorial differences, it is urged that the information previously approved for release by FE Division or the Office of Communications be officially released as a temporary measure.

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